

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Lee County Training School
other names/site number W. B. Wicker School

2. Location

street & number 806 South Vance Street N/A not for publication
city or town Sanford N/A vicinity
state North Carolina code NC county Lee code 105 zip code 27330

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Jessy Crow SHPO 10/31/00
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

 Signature of commenting or other official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- ✓ entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
 determined eligible for the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
 determined not eligible for the National Register.
 removed from the National Register.
 other (explain):

for
Edson H. Beall 12/28/00
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

5. Classification**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property Number of Resources within Property

(Check only one box)

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

☒ private☐ public-local☐ public-State☐ public-Federal☒ building(s)☐ district☐ site☐ structure☐ object

Contributing

10001

Noncontributing

0 buildings0 sites1 structures0 objects1 Total**Name of related multiple property listing**

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National RegisterHistoric and Architectural Resources of
Lee County, N.C., ca. 1800-19420**6. Function or Use****Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

*Category**Subcategory**Category**Subcategory*

EDUCATION

school

WORK IN PROGRESS

7. Description**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

No Style

foundation

walls

roof

other

Brick

Brick

Asphalt

Wood

Concrete

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☒ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history
- ☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION

ETHNIC HERITAGE: BLACK

ARCHITECTURE

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey

- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** a birthplace or a grave.
- ☐ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property.
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age; achieved significance with the past 50 yr

Period of Significance

1927-1950

Significant Dates

1927

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

(see continuation sheet)

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository:

10. Geographical Data**Acreage of Property** approximately 2 acres**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	17	664880	3926900	3	17	
2	17			4	17	

___ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	<u>J. Daniel Pezzoni</u>	date	<u>July 19, 2000</u>
organization	<u>Landmark Preservation Associates</u>	telephone	<u>(540) 464-5315</u>
street & number	<u>6 Houston St.</u>	zip code	<u>24450</u>
city or town	<u>Lexington</u> state <u>VA</u>		

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets**Maps**A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.**Photographs**Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.**Additional items**

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name	<u>William T. Wilson Jr.</u>	telephone	<u>(unlisted)</u>
street & number	<u>1502 Woodland Ave.</u>	zip code	<u>27330</u>
city or town	<u>Sanford</u> state <u>NC</u>		

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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**Lee County Training School
Lee Co., N.C.**

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NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Summary

The Lee County Training School, better known as the W. B. Wicker School, is a one-story brick building dating to 1927 with additions in 1934 and 1949. The building is linear in form, with the 1949 addition forming a rear wing at the north end, and it is utilitarian in design with features such as a prominent boiler flue that may represent intentional evocations of industrial architecture. The interior has a double-loaded corridor with wooden floors, plaster-on-brick and plaster-and-lath walls and ceilings, and more modern finishes. The main level features a library with arched windows, and the partial basement level contains a post-1950 cafeteria. The building stands amid landscaped grounds at the front of a campus consisting of 1950s and 1960s classroom buildings, auditorium, and gymnasium (excluded from the nominated parcel).

Exterior

The building has an appearance of horizontality created by its one-story massing and linear form, and by its flat roof and lack of a prominent cornice or other crowning element. The front facade is composed of a row of tall twelve-over-twelve wood-sash windows regularly punctuated by narrow brick piers with white-painted concrete copings and by wider, tabular brick piers that correspond to classroom divisions and that rise slightly above the roof line. At the facade center point (before the building was extended on the north end) is a brick wall pierced by a round-arched entry recess and capped by an irregularly stepped parapet that extends at one corner into a tall, smokestack-like boiler flue. Leading up to the front entry are concrete steps that form a series of diminishing concentric semicircles in plan. Next to these, steps lead down to a boiler room entrance.

The dominant feature of the rear elevation is a central projection containing the library, characterized by a shallow-pitched gable roof with asphalt-shingle sheathing in the gables (possibly original), and eight round-arched door and window openings. The windows have twelve-over-twelve sash like the square-headed windows typical of the front and rear elevations, but unlike the other windows they are topped by fanlights with radiating muntins. Two of the openings are doorways that open onto concrete steps covered by frame awnings on slender steel pole supports. Another set of concrete steps lead up to a wooden panel door with a twelve-light transom on the north side of the library projection. The transom may be a twelve-light window sash installed on its side; a similar transom once rose above a matching doorway on the south side of the projection. Extending from the projection at the basement level is a small gabled brick wing of unknown

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function with a breezeway connection to the main building that was later bricked up. Other features of the building's original construction include six-course American-bond brickwork with deeply recessed mortar joints; a soldier course band that defines floor level on the exterior; pitched brick window sills; eight-over-eight basement windows; and semicircular fanlights over the door inside the front entry recess and a door in a similar recess on the south end.

The 1934 addition to the north end extended the building by one classroom bay and replicated the original styling, although the brickwork is slightly lighter. Construction of the 1934 addition eliminated a double set of exterior stairs at the original north end of the interior corridor. The 1949 addition departs from the original treatment through its use of five-course American-bond brickwork, square-headed entryway recesses, and fixed one-over-one windows above operable hopper sash.

Interior

The interior features a central corridor that runs the length of the building and that provides a circulation spine for classrooms on either side (see Exhibit B). A short transverse hall flanked by offices leads to the front entry. A double-arched opening connects the transverse hall to the main corridor, and two archways occur along the main corridor. Another archway towards the north end of the corridor is probably associated with the building's original exterior entry on its north end, which was made interior by the 1934 addition. Baseboards, window and door surrounds, and narrow crown moldings have simple molding profiles, and doors are wood paneled. Most classrooms have at least one end wall devoted to storage closets, some with their original glazed panel doors, and most classrooms retain original or early blackboards. The four classrooms of the 1934 addition (two on the main level and two in the basement) have matchboard ceilings rather than plaster, and transoms over the doors to the corridor. The bathrooms have wooden stalls in the 1924 section and metal stalls in the 1949 section. Most interior spaces have drop ceilings and tile flooring over the original wooden floors, and the basement lunch room has modern wood paneling. The interior is in poor condition owing to neglect, vandalism, and roof leaks that have rotted the floor structure in places.

Surroundings

The property's landscaping, walkways, and so forth date mainly to the 1950s-60s period. The principal features from before 1950 are the entrance and exit driveway connections to South Vance Street, which are divided by a wide median that was once the site of the 1934 agriculture building

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and gymnasium, and possibly a brick walkway that extends along the north side of the entrance drive and turns to pass in front of the school. Later brickwork includes retaining walls in front of the school and along Saunders Street, gate pillars and steps near the northeast corner of the 1949 addition, and walkways with connections to most of the school's entryways. Extending a short distance inside the nomination boundary is a small portion of the covered walkway with steel canopy and suspended steam pipes which leads from the 1949 addition to the 1956 auditorium outside the boundary. Trees and shrubbery cluster near the school at the top of a terrace in front of the building and include oak trees, a Lebanon cedar, and a row of cedars or arbor vitae. The school's general surroundings are residential in character with small frame and brick houses dating largely to the middle decades of the twentieth century.

Integrity Statement

The Lee County Training School possesses good integrity despite over a decade of deferred maintenance and vandalism. All character-defining exterior features are present except, necessarily, those that have been modified or obscured by the additions of 1934 and 1949. The interior retains most of its historic features and finishes, although these are sometimes obscured behind (but not effaced by) modern ceiling and flooring materials. Neglect has resulted in limited deterioration of structural components and considerable cosmetic damage such as peeling paint and fallen plaster. Recent measures to secure the building such as placing metal coverings over windows and securing doorways from unlawful entry have reduced damage from vandalism and occupation by vagrants.

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NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Summary

The Lee County Training School, better known as W. B. Wicker School, served as Sanford and Lee County's African American high school from construction in 1927 until it was decommissioned as a high school in 1969. The one-story brick building, characterized by large windows alternating with pilasters, was renamed in 1954 after its first principal, William Bartelle Wicker, and it was built by contractor A. L. "Link" Boykin, a leading member of Sanford's black community. Additions were made to the building in 1934 and 1949, and the campus was enlarged by the construction of other buildings from the 1930s through the 1960s. Classes were last held at the school in the late 1980s; the facility has since fallen into disrepair, but a rehabilitation is now planned.

The Lee County Training School is eligible under Criterion A in the areas of Education and Ethnic Heritage (Black) as Sanford and Lee County's historic African American high school and as the focus of local efforts to enhance educational opportunities for blacks. The school also is eligible under Criterion C in the area of Architecture as a largely intact example of an early twentieth-century brick school of the era of school consolidation. The period of significance extends from 1927, the date of construction for the original school building, until 1950, encompassing the early years of the school's operation and the dates of construction of additions in 1934 and 1949. The local significance of the Lee County Training School is discussed in "Historic and Architectural Resources of Lee County, North Carolina, ca. 1800-1942." It meets the registration requirements for significance in the history of education and architecture as outlined in the property type Institutional Buildings. Additional context is provided herein.

Historical Background: African American Education in Sanford

Lee County, located at the northern edge of the North Carolina Sandhills region, was primarily settled by Highland Scots during the eighteenth century, and it developed as a community of predominately yeoman farms. African American slaves were likely present from the beginning of settlement, but their numbers were apparently small compared to other slave-holding regions of the South on account of the socioeconomic structure of the county and the generally poor soils of the area, which were not well suited to large-scale plantation agriculture. African Americans probably represented about 20 percent of the area's total population at the end of the eighteenth century. By

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the eve of the Civil War the figure may have risen to about 30 percent.¹

The post-war period witnessed the rise of the county's first true towns, Jonesboro and Sanford, both creations of the railroad. The majority of the county's African American population continued to live and work on the land, but black communities soon emerged in the two new towns. In 1880, blacks comprised over 45 percent of Sanford's population of 236 residents, and a black congregation--Fair Promise A.M.E. Zion--likely built the town's first church in 1871. A sash and blind factory, brownstone quarries, and white households provided jobs for African Americans, and churches such as Fair Promise and Blandonia United Presbyterian created a foundation for the community's social life.²

Little is known about the educational history of Sanford's early African American community, although schooling was likely provided by the churches and, minimally if at all, by the state. The first well-documented black school was the South Sanford Graded School, an unpainted two-story frame building constructed in the early twentieth century on Washington Street. The school struggled until 1924 when a young educator named W. B. Wicker was appointed principal.³

The son of a laundress and an oil mill fireman, William Bartelle Wicker was raised in a house on Washington Street. Before pursuing a career in education he worked as a farm hand, a coal miner, and as a laborer for Sanford's leading black builder, A. L. Boykin. He attended Albion Academy and Virginia Seminary and Normal School in Lynchburg, receiving an A. B. degree at the latter institution in 1923. After teaching in Almagro (in Danville, Virginia) during the 1923-24 school year, Wicker returned to Sanford and to establishing a high school curriculum at the South Sanford school. This was only ten years after the first public African American high school was opened in North Carolina. Wicker succeeded in boosting the high school enrollment from nine in 1924 (out of a total elementary and high school student body of 365) to thirty in 1927-28.⁴

¹ Pezzoni, *History and Architecture of Lee County*, xviii, 6. Lee County was not formed until 1907 (officially January 1, 1908), but for the sake of simplicity the county is referred to as though it already existed for earlier periods.

² Ibid., 58, 110; Murchison, "Yesteryears," 1-5.

³ Ibid.

⁴ *Sanford Herald*, January 6, 1947; Department of Public Instruction Papers; and Isley, "Survey

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The poorly equipped South Sanford school was inadequate for the quality of education envisioned by Wicker and his supporters, and plans for a new facility were soon laid. In October 1926 A. L. Boykin sold a five-acre school site in the heart of the African American neighborhood south of the downtown to the county board of education. The following month the local paper reported "Preparations are being made for the construction of a colored graded school building in Sanford." The natural choice for the building's construction was Arnold Lincoln "Link" Boykin (ca. 1870-1943), a Sampson County native who had established himself as a builder in Sanford by 1910 and who built houses and commercial buildings for black and white clients in Lee and adjoining counties in the 1920s. Architect H. B. Hunter provided the design for the building, and Sanford architect L. M. Thompson provided technical assistance.⁵

Construction funds were provided in part by the Rosenwald Fund, conceived in the 1910s by Southern black leader and educator Booker T. Washington. The fund was supported by and named after Chicago philanthropist Julius Rosenwald, who shared Washington's conviction that advancement for Southern blacks "could be achieved by working within the South's social system." The fund worked by offering matching funds to white-controlled school boards. As a fund officer explained (quoted in Thomas Hanchett's history of North Carolina's Rosenwald Schools):

"A school had to represent common effort by the state and county authorities and the local colored and white citizens. The state and county had to contribute to the building and agree to maintain it as a regular part of the public school system. White citizens had to take an interest and contribute part of the money, since it was felt that white leadership was essential to the success of the program in the South."

From the 1910s until the early 1930s the Rosenwald Fund supported the construction of 5,357 schools and auxiliary buildings, approximately 800 of which were built in North Carolina. The Lee County Training School, as W. B. Wicker was originally known, numbered among the largest Rosenwald facilities in the state when it was completed in 1927. Valued at \$40,000, with a library and ten classrooms, the school numbered among only twenty facilities with ten classrooms or

of the Negro Schools in Lee County," 3.

⁵ *Sanford Express*, October 28, 1926; Lee County Deed Book D 26, p. 391; and Pezzoni, *History and Architecture of Lee County*, 110, 151, and 314.

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more.⁶

The Lee County Training School received federal public works monies in 1934 to add four classrooms and to construct a brick agriculture building and a metal-sided gymnasium (both buildings torn down in the 1970s or 80s). Raleigh architect William Henley Deitrick designed another addition completed in 1949, and a building variously known as the trade building or veterans building was built in 1948 but since torn down. During this period Wicker and his faculty--all college graduates by the late 1940s--worked to achieve a reputation for excellence. The Lee County Training School was one of five African American high schools in North Carolina to meet the full requirements of the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools in 1946-47. The school's energetic principal saw his primary mission as the education of children, but, as local historian Margaret Murchison has noted, Wicker's role as an educator extended beyond school walls. He "knew how to aspire, how to lead and how to encourage those with little opportunity to make their own opportunity."⁷

A portrait of the school as it existed in 1949 is contained in a University of North Carolina master's thesis written by Avery Lucian Isley. The Lee County Training School was one of nine black schools in the county and the only one with a high school curriculum (elementary students were also taught there). Total enrollment typically numbered in the 200 to 300 range for the decade 1939 to 1949. Isley praised the school for the variety of its course offerings and for its "good program in music, vocational, and physical education," but he also called attention to crowded conditions in classrooms and on buses and to the need for a cafeteria. The school boasted a first aid/health room and (according to a period newspaper account) "a fleet of seven buses [that] brings pupils from all sections of the county to the High school unit." The school was the only one in the county for blacks with indoor toilets, steam heat (as opposed to wood-burning stoves), and janitorial service.⁸

⁶ Hanchett, "Rosenwald Schools and Black Education in North Carolina," 387-436; *Sanford Herald*, May 1, 1947.

⁷ *Sanford Herald*, May 1, 1947; Murchison, "Yesteryears," 6; Fischetti, "Condition Assessment," 1; and Lee County Board of Education records. Most accounts support a 1927 date of completion for the original building, but one source gives the date 1928 (Isley, "Survey of Negro Schools of Lee County," 61).

⁸ Isley, "Survey of the Negro Schools of Lee County," 36, 44, 76-77, and 94-99; *Sanford Herald*, May 1, 1947.

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The Lee County Training School campus continued to grow after mid-century. A classroom complex was built in stages behind the original school building in the 1950s and early 1960s, and the 1955-56 W. B. Wicker Auditorium and a gymnasium were also added to the complex. These buildings, of modern design and brick and cinder-block construction, were designed by Southern Pines architect Thomas T. Hayes Jr. in collaboration with other architects. Also during the period groundsman Alexander Bagley and students under the direction of agriculture instructor Alfred Brown landscaped the campus. Their efforts are reflected in the mature ornamental trees and other plantings in front of the 1927 building. The high school offered a range of academic and vocational courses as well as extra-curricular activities such as sports and clubs. Events of note after 1950 included the renaming of the school in honor of W. B. Wicker in 1954, the appointment of Benjamin T. Bullock as the second principal in 1964, and decommissioning of the facility as a high school in 1969 when integration resulted in consolidation with the historically white Sanford High School. After 1969 the facility served as a temporary home for other schools undergoing moves or remodeling. W. B. Wicker finally closed in 1990.⁹

The W. B. Wicker School spirit lived on in the hearts of alumni who in 1989 inaugurated the biennial W. B. Wicker School Reunion, which publishes an informative program. The first reunion was held at the school, but by the date of the second reunion in 1991 the facilities had deteriorated to the point that only the auditorium building could be used. Interest in reusing the school buildings mounted in the late 1990s through the initiative of Sanford attorney William T. Wilson Jr. and the Brick Capital Community Development Corporation and its director, Kate Rumely, and in late 1999 and early 2000 a team of professionals including Chapel Hill architect Arthur R. Cogswell, FAIA, and Cary engineer David C. Fischetti, P.E., began a study of the rehabilitation needs of the complex. The rehabilitation will focus first on the 1927 building and its pre-1950 additions followed by the post-1950 buildings. Mixed uses are anticipated, possibly to include elderly housing.¹⁰

⁹ *W. B. Wicker School, 1929-1969, Fifth Reunion--1997*; Fischetti, "Condition Assessment and Structural Evaluation, W.B. Wicker School;" Murchison, "Yesteryears," 8; and Murchison and Howard personal communication.

¹⁰ *W. B. Wicker School, 1929-1969, Fifth Reunion--1997*; Kate Rumely personal communication; and Fischetti, "Condition Assessment and Structural Evaluation, W.B. Wicker School."

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Statement of Significance (continued)

Architectural Analysis

The Lee County Training School has a number of notable architectural characteristics. Perhaps most intriguing is the building's utilitarian industrial appearance, created by its flat-roofed linear form, its prominent boiler flue--evoking of a factory smokestack--and a general lack of stylistic features. This appearance may have been intended as an architectural reflection of the educational philosophy espoused by Booker T. Washington and others emphasizing vocational training for blacks. Washington's approach to black education is clearly implied by the facility's original name--Lee County Training School--although most histories of the school suggest that academic offerings and extracurricular activities received equal or greater stress, and W. B. Wicker graduates distinguished themselves in diverse fields.¹¹

Alternatively, the unfinished appearance created by the building's lack of a crowning facade element may indicate original but unrealized plans for a second story. In this regard it is similar to another county high school, Broadway School, completed in 1926. Although Broadway School is a full two stories, it too lacks a crowning element, and it also shares with the Lee County Training School an arched main entry and classroom windows grouped in fives and separated by broad brick piers. The Lee County Training School could pass as a one-story version of the Broadway school. Whatever the intentions behind the design, the Lee County Training School has a modernistic simplicity that seems ahead of its time in the context of 1920s central North Carolina. Forward-looking but with one nod to convention; the front facade juxtaposition of a decorative entryway (in this case arched) and a vertical chimney-like element (the flue) with a decorative half-shoulder (a concave quarter-radius of brick at the joint of the flue and the wall) suggests the entry-chimney juxtaposition common in Tudor Revival residences of the era and the later "period cottages" they inspired.¹²

Also of note is the decorative brickwork employed in the school's landscaping. Students working under the direction of bricklaying instructor William Richardson executed most of this work, which dates to after 1950 when the campus experienced its greatest expansion. Brickwork from this period is characterized by tight radial turnings and the use of white quartzite rocks as

¹¹ Goodenow, "Education, Black," 151-53; Murchison, "Yesteryears," 8; and *W.B. Wicker School*, 2.

¹² Pezzoni, *History and Architecture of Lee County*, 111-12.

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Statement of Significance (continued)

accents. The earliest surviving brickwork appears to be the walkway that extends along the access drive and the front of the school. This is paved with brick bats, probably cast-offs from local brick factories. The use of waste material reflects the budgetary constraints under which a black high school in the segregated South always struggled, especially during the Great Depression when the walkway was probably constructed, but rather than presenting an inferior appearance the effect is decorative in an Arts and Crafts sense. The originality of the craftsmanship in the landscaping brickwork and, to a lesser extent, the brickwork of the building itself relates to a local tradition of decorative African-American brickwork seen in Sanford's ca. 1930 Goldston Building and elsewhere.¹³

Architect/Builder

Boykin, Arnold Lincoln (builder of 1927 building)

Hunter, H. B. (architect of 1927 building)

Thompson, L. M. (architectural consultant on 1927 building)

Dietrick, William Henley (architect of 1949 addition)

¹³ Murchison, personal communication; Pezzoni, *History and Architecture of Lee County*, 324.

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

Note: A number of individuals and organizations assisted in the preparation of this report, foremost among them the sponsor of the project, the Brick Capital Community Development Corporation of Sanford NC, its Executive Director Kate Rumely, and its W. B. Wicker School Project Manager John E. Howard Sr. Others who provided assistance included Margaret Bagley Murchison of Sanford, Gene Morris with the National Archives, College Park, Maryland, and Chandrea Burch, Bill Garrett, and National Register coordinator Jennifer Martin with the N.C. Department of Cultural Resources, Division of Archives and History in Raleigh.

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Lee County Training School
Lee Co., N.C.

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**Lee County Training School
Lee Co., N.C.**

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated parcel is depicted on the 1:150-scale map that appears as Exhibit A of this nomination.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries of the nominated parcel are drawn so as to include the sole historic resource associated with the Lee County Training School campus--the original 1927 building--and to exclude modern buildings on the campus. The west boundary parallels the west elevation of the 1949 addition at a distance of ten feet, and it passes through a covered open-air walkway that connects the 1949 addition to a 1956 auditorium. The east boundary parallels the east elevation of the school at a distance of one hundred feet so as to include trees and other landscaping in the parcel.

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Lee County Training School
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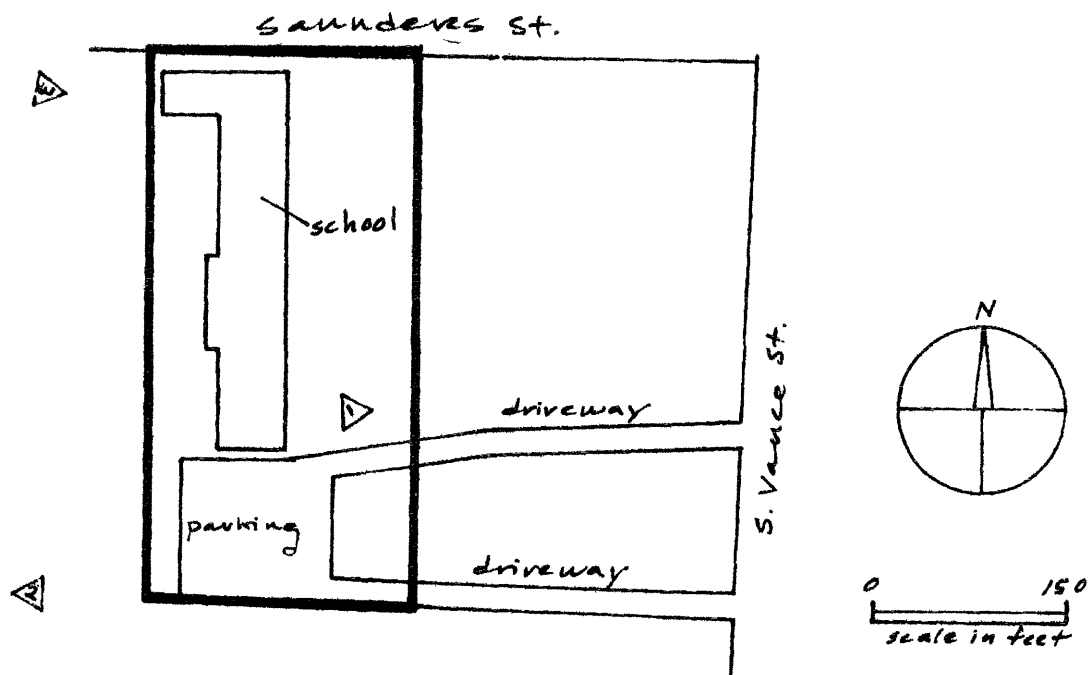


Exhibit A: The Lee County Training School nominated parcel. Triangular markers indicate direction and number of photographic views.

Lee County Training School
Lee Co., N.C.

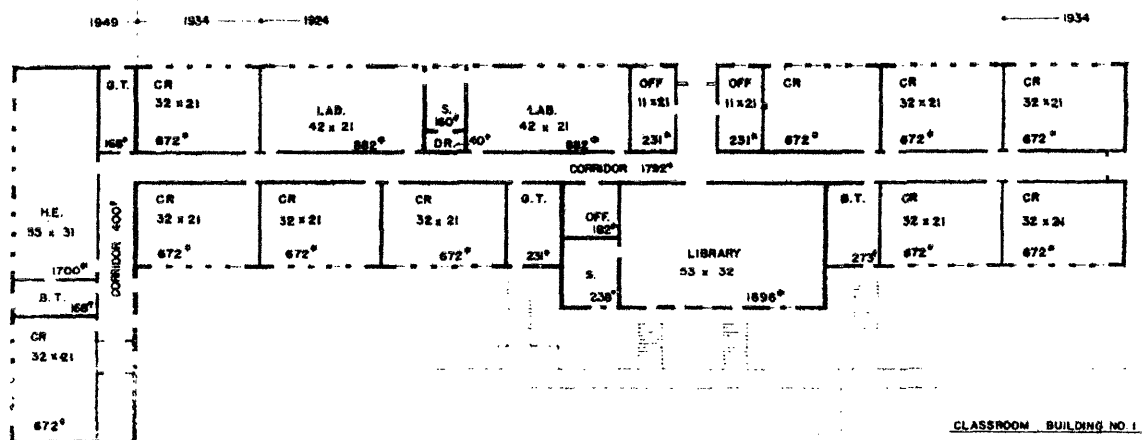
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Exhibit B: Lee County Training School, main level plan from "Property Accounting Survey of Lee County Schools" (ca. 1965). The "1924" date is incorrect, as is apparently the identification of the south end of the building as a 1934 addition (the other additions are accurately indicated).

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PHOTOGRAPHS

1. 1. Subject: Lee County Training School (same for all photos)
 2. Location: Lee Co., N.C. (same for all photos)
 3. Photographer: J. Daniel Pezzoni (same for all photos)
 4. Photo date: 1992
 5. Original negative archived at N.C. Department of Cultural Resources, Division of
 Archives and History, Raleigh (same for all photos)
 6. Description of view: Front (east) elevation of school. View looking northwest.
 Note: Metal coverings were recently placed over most of the windows shown in
 this view in order to secure the building from vandalism. Otherwise, the
 appearance and condition of the elevation is similar to that shown in this 1992
 view.
 7. Photograph number appears at beginning of entry (same for all photos)
2. 4. Photo date: May 2000
 6. Rear (west) elevation of school with 1956 gymnasium to left. View looking northeast.
3. 4. Photo date: May 2000
 6. North end of school with 1949 addition in foreground. View looking east.
4. 4. Photo date: May 2000
 6. Hallway.
5. 4. Photo date: May 2000
 6. Typical classroom on main level.